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brutality, practised now, as he declares, almost exclusively in the American merchant marine.

The book is well printed and handsomely bound, and the illustrations are uncommonly good.

The Prehistoric Arts, Manufactures, Works, Weapons, etc., of the Aborigines of Australia. Compiled and Collated by Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk, Adelaide, South Australia: C. E. Bristow, Government Printer, North-Terrace, Adelaide, 1897.

This compilation is the result of efforts continued for twenty-five years, in the intervals of official duty, to rescue from oblivion some of the antiquities of Australia. The preface closes with these words:

I deeply regret my own carelessness in allowing many valuable opportunities to slip which occurred during my early life in this province of recording, and daily, the numerous religious rites and grand festivals I have witnessed, together with occasional discoveries of cave paintings and of carvings, both on rock and on wood. Nevertheless, I trust in the things now recorded sufficient interest will be excited as to press upon the public attention the necessity of attempting in our own time and day the careful collection of copies of every artistic work of the Australian aborigine which may at any time come under personal observation. Failing this, like the tribes themselves, these pictorial records may soon disappear and be no more known.

Mr. Worsnop acknowledges the help received from many persons whom he names, and the bulk of his volume is made up, of course, from the published works of navigators and scholars,—Flinders, Sir George Grey, Brough Smyth and others—; but his own contribution is not insignificant.

Separate chapters are devoted to the native drawings, including tree carvings, cave and rock paintings, with an account of the pigments and their preparation; to sculpture and carvings; to clothing, which in the early days shone by its absence; to native tombs, with description of the funeral ceremonies; to dwellings and sleeping places, with mention of the stone circles, so numerous in Victoria; to domestic utensils, of many kinds and all, particularly the water bags and baskets, showing great ingenuity and skill in manufacture; to road-making, quarries, weapons, navigation, dances, tattooing and games.

In the chapter on road-making is the description of a dam, seen by Ernest Giles in South Australia, lat. $30^{\circ} 43'$, long. $132^{\circ} 44'$:

... On arriving at it we saw that it was a circular wall or dam of clay, nearly 5 feet high, with a segment open to the south to admit and retain the rainwater that occasionally flows over the flat into this artificial receptacle. This wall or dam is the first piece of work of art or usefulness that I have ever seen in Australia, and if I

had only heard of it I should seriously have reflected upon the credibilty of my informant, because attempts of skill or ingenuity on the part of Australian natives in any way applied to building or storing of water have never previously been met with, and I was very much astonished at beholding it now. This piece of work was 2 feet thick on the top of the wall, 20 yards in the length of its sweep, and at the bottom, where the water lodged, the embankment was nearly 5 feet thick.

Mr. Giles and his party were afterwards saved from death by thirst by the water in a similar dam found in the desert farther to the north.

Reproductions of native drawings, some of them in color, and of scenes in the native life, add to the interest and value of this work.